

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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## Parent-Teacher Section at N.E.A. Convention

"What About Marks and Promotions?" will be the subject of the panel discussion under the auspices of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at the Convention of the Department of Superintendence in Atlantic City. The Parent-Teacher Section meeting will be held Wednesday afternoon, February 27, at 2:15 p.m. Mrs. B. F. Langworthy will preside and the invited panel is as follows:

Dr. William McAndrew, Superintendent of Schools, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Dr. Willard W. Beatty, Superintendent of Schools, Bronxville, New York

Mr. John T. Webner, General Secretary, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Mr. Harry Langworthy, Superintendent of Schools, Gloversville, New York

Dr. A. F. Harman, former Superintendent of Schools, Montgomery, Alabama

Dr. Sidney Hall, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Richmond, Virginia

Mrs. Inez Johnson Lewis, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denver, Colorado

Mrs. Charles H. Cooley, President, New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers

To those who heard the parent-teacher section discussion of Home Study during the summer Convention of the National Education Association in Washington, the following Associated Press dispatch, dated December 15 from Los Angeles, will be of interest:

Long hours of home study will become a thing of the past for 260,000 Los Angeles school children in February. Home work will be completely abolished in the first eight grades and sharply restricted in the remaining four grades. Study periods at school will be increased.



Mrs. W. Sumner Covey, Daytona Beach, Florida, President, Florida Congress of Parents and Teachers, who is in charge of arrangements for entertaining the National Convention in Miami, April 29 to May 3. Under her leadership, the Land of Sunshine is already the scene of busy preparation for this occasion.

## New N.E.A. Secretary

Willard Earl Givens, formerly superintendent of schools at Oakland, California, assumed his duties January 1 as Secretary of the National Education Association, succeeding J. W. Crabtree, Secretary of the National Education Association since 1917. The new secretary, a native of Indiana, has distinguished himself as a teacher, superintendent, and a public spirited citizen, and he comes to his new position well equipped to serve the cause of public education.

## State Edition of Our Public Schools

A plan which will enable each state to have its own special edition of the popular book, *Our Public Schools*, has just been announced by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. This new service comes as the result of a request from a state superintendent of schools for a special edition with a chapter on the schools of his state. Other state superintendents have also expressed interest in having a special state edition, and state presidents have now been authorized to take up the matter with their state boards of education.

According to the new plan, the National Congress will cooperate with any state in publishing a special state edition of *Our Public Schools*. The name of the state will be imprinted on the cover and a chapter of 16 pages on the schools of the state, the text to be provided by the state, will be included. A discount of 40 percent will be allowed on the regular price of 25 cents a copy, paper-bound, or 50 cents a copy, cloth-bound.

If you are interested in having a state edition, get in touch with your state president or state superintendent.

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The great end of education is, to discipline rather than to furnish the mind; to train it to the use of its own powers, rather than fill it with the accumulations of others.—Tryon Edwards.

## PLAN TO ATTEND

### 39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION—NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Miami Biltmore Hotel, Miami, Florida—April 29-May 3, 1935

*Theme: The Home—The Index to National Life*

## National Committees At Work

### Mental Hygiene Plan of Work

Dr. Frances Gaw, Seattle, Washington, our new Chairman of Mental Hygiene, has issued a Plan of Work which includes the use of radio broadcasts by experts in child psychology, and emphasis on fiction in which children and adults are dealt with according to sound principles of mental hygiene. Study groups are advocated and the active cooperation of teachers in the mental hygiene program is emphasized.

Dr. Gaw comments:

"These major divisions in the Plan of Work are designed to help parents realize that the home must be made 'the center of joy and happiness for the child,' to quote Mrs. Langworthy. A tremendous number of American homes have a radio; almost every family reads some magazine stories or novels during a year. These simple and easily-available sources of stimulation and information are therefore suggested to encourage parents to think about and watch over the mental health of the child and of his whole family. Study groups, also, are recognized as helpful by parents the country over, and are coming to touch almost every group of fathers and mothers, whatever their race, creed, economic or educational background. The preventive aspects of mental hygiene, the avoidance of emotional and intellectual indisposition, can in time become a subject of frequent and thoughtful consideration by parents as they gain in their ability to regulate these phases of the child's life.

"The activity of teachers can be thought of as an extension of the parents' work. The school has long been recognized as an agency which takes over certain functions originally carried on by parents: extending the 'joy and happiness' of the home to the hours of the child's day spent in school is surely an appropriate role for the teacher. While parents and teachers see the child in a different perspective, he is after all the *same* child, however markedly his conduct and attitude may vary. The emphasis of modern psychology on 'the whole child' lends force to the need for close and sympathetic understanding between parents and Teachers."

### Stockholders Meeting

The annual meeting of the stockholders, directors, and officers of the Child Welfare Company, Incorporated, will be held in Washington, D. C., on Saturday, January 19, 1935. A Board of Directors for the coming year will be elected. Mrs. Hugh Bradford, President of the Child Welfare Company, will preside.

### Social Hygiene Helps

Mr. Newell W. Edson, Chairman of the Social Hygiene Committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, recommends the following publications as being of special help to parents:

#### Books:

*Parents and Sex Education.* B. C. Gruenberg. Available at present at the reduced price of 75c per copy. For parents of young children.

*The Way Life Begins.* B. C. and V. M. Cady. \$1.50. The beginning of plant, animal, and human life. Illustrated with colored plates.

*Growing Up.* Karl de Schweinitz. \$1.75. The story of how we become alive, are born, and grow up.

*New Patterns in Sex Teaching.* Frances B. Strain. \$2. Shows how parents may meet unusual as well as common situations.

*Living Together in the Family.* Lemo T. Dennis. \$1.10. For highschool age, but interesting to adults.

*Growing into Manhood.* Roy E. Dickerson. \$1. For boys 12-15.

*So Youth May Know.* Roy E. Dickerson. \$2. For young people 16 years and older.

#### Periodicals:

The *Journal of Social Hygiene*, especially the May 1934, number, published particularly for parents. Price 35c per copy.

#### Pamphlets:

The pamphlets listed in the folder *For Your Home Library*. Some of the titles: *Sex Education in the Home*, *Your Daughter's Mother*, *Health for Girls*, *Choosing a Home Partner*, *From Boy to Man*. Price \$1. for the set of thirteen.

All of these publications may be secured from the American Social Hygiene Association, Room 922, 50 West 50th Street, New York, N. Y., at the prices named, plus postage. The *Journal of Social Hygiene* and the *Social Hygiene News*, published monthly, together with single copies of pamphlets mentioned, and others (for complete lists of recommended books and pamphlets, ask for Publication Nos. 793 and 794) may be obtained free of charge through membership in the Association, for which the dues are \$2 yearly.

### Child Labor Day—1935

January 26-28

Following a custom of nearly thirty years, the National Child Labor Committee has designated the last week-end in January for the observance of Child Labor Day. The keynote this year will be ratification of the Federal Child Labor Amendment.

### Founders Day—February 17

On February 17, many of the 20,000 local units of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will celebrate Founders Day, the 38th anniversary of the founding of the organization. During the years which have elapsed since Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney and Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst called the first meeting of the National Congress of Mothers at the Arlington Hotel in Washington, the organization has gradually taken root in the heart of American life. Today it is generally considered one of the country's most forward-looking groups and a powerful factor for good in our national life.

A vivid account of the early days of the Congress is given in a series of three articles by Winnifred King Rugg in the December, January and February issues of the National Parent-Teacher Magazine.

(Founders Day program helps may be secured from the National Office by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope with a request for this material.)

### Children's Reading

Children's books should be stressed this year from the point of view of a leisure time activity and as the gateway to the literature of adult life, according to Miss Elva Smith, Associate Chairman in charge of Children's Reading and Head of Boys and Girls Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, who says:

"Increased leisure for the many, as well as for the few, is forecast for the future. If it is to be used wisely—and the wise use is one of the cardinal objectives of education set forth by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers—people must have resources within themselves and worthwhile avocations. Many writers are emphasizing this fact; for example, one recent book has the title, 'A Guide to Civilized Loafing.' In order that the adult of tomorrow may have the wide range of interests needed to make his leisure time profitable to himself and to the community, planning and training to this end should begin with the children today. Books are of value in the initiation and fostering of many interests—art and crafts, gardening and nature study, hobbies of all kinds—but reading is also a major activity in itself to be encouraged and cultivated."

## Radio Programs For New Year

The second quarter of the national parent education radio course was inaugurated January 3, 1935, by William F. Ogburn, Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago, with an address on "The School and Future Social Trends."

Because so many listeners have written in for copies of the addresses, it has been decided to have them mimeographed for distribution at 5 cents each. A listener's pamphlet, containing abstracts of the 12 addresses for the winter quarter, is also available at 5 cents a copy. Order from the National Office.

New listening groups registering for the winter quarter may obtain a free copy of the listener's pamphlet for the fall series.

### Parent Education

#### Radio Program

N.B.C. Red Network

Thursdays, 5:00-5:30 p.m., E.S.T.

**SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

#### FEBRUARY 7

*The Place of Recreation in Adult Life*—John W. Faust, Field Secretary of the National Recreation Association and Recreation Chairman, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

#### FEBRUARY 14

*Habits, Their Importance, How They Are Formed or Broken*—John E. Anderson, Director, Institute of Child Welfare, University of Minnesota.

#### FEBRUARY 21

*Play and Playthings*—Miss Marie Belle Fowler, Head of Department of Family Life, New York State College of Home Economics, Cornell University

#### FEBRUARY 28

*Nursery School and Kindergarten*—Arnold Gesell, Director of the Clinic of Child Development, Yale University

### National Office Reading Room

A rearrangement of bookcases, desks, and chairs in the National Office has been effected and space set aside for a reading room where literature on the work of the Congress and related subjects is easily accessible.

Congress members are cordially invited to visit the National Office and avail themselves of the privileges of the reading room. Among the recent visitors to the reading room were a man teacher who spent two days of his Christmas vacation browsing among the books, and a woman study group leader who wished to examine the character education references listed in the *Parent-Teacher Manual*.

### Stations Carrying Parent Education Radio Program

#### (Basic Red)

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| WEAF   | New York, N. Y.   |
| WEII   | Boston, Mass.     |
| WJAR   | Providence, R. I. |
| WTAG   | Worcester, Mass.  |
| WLIT   | Philadelphia, Pa. |
| WRC    | Washington, D. C. |
| WBEN   | Buffalo, N. Y.    |
| WCAE   | Pittsburgh, Pa.   |
| WTAM   | Cleveland, Ohio   |
| WWJ    | Detroit, Mich.    |
| KSD    | St. Louis, Mo.    |
| WOC-HO | Des Moines, Iowa  |
| WOW    | Omaha, Nebr.      |
| WDAF   | Kansas City, Mo.  |

#### (Chicago)

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| WMAQ | Chicago, Ill. |
|------|---------------|

#### (Northwest)

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| WIBA | Madison, Wis.   |
| KSTP | St. Paul, Minn. |
| WDAY | Fargo, N. Dak.  |

#### (Southeast)

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| WPTF | Raleigh, N. Car.   |
| WWNC | Asheville, N. Car. |
| WSOC | Charlotte, N. Car. |
| WIS  | Columbia, S. Car.  |
| WJAX | Jacksonville, Fla. |
| WFLA | Tampa, Fla.        |
| WTAR | Norfolk, Va.       |

#### (Southcentral)

|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| WAVE | Louisville, Ky.  |
| WSM  | Nashville, Tenn. |
| WMC  | Memphis, Tenn.   |
| WSB  | Atlanta, Georgia |
| WAPI | Birmingham, Ala. |
| WJDX | Jackson, Miss.   |
| WSMB | New Orleans, La. |

#### (Southwest)

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| WKY  | Oklahoma City, Okla. |
| WOAI | San Antonio, Tex.    |
| KTBS | Shreveport, La.      |

#### (Mountain)

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| KOA  | Denver, Colo.        |
| KDYL | Salt Lake City, Utah |

#### (Pacific Coast)

|     |                       |
|-----|-----------------------|
| KGO | San Francisco, Calif. |
|-----|-----------------------|

### Local Reports

The 1934-35 local unit report blank is now being distributed to the states. To date, 41 states have ordered 30,000 copies of the new blank, on which local units will report their year's work. From these local unit reports, the 1935 Annual Summary of Parent-Teacher Information will be compiled and published in the fall. The new report blank has been revised and simplified, and it is anticipated that much more authentic information on a national scale will be forthcoming as a result of the wide use of this uniform blank.

### State Exhibits at National Convention

Part of the space available for exhibits at the 39th Annual Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, April 29-May 3, at the Miami Biltmore Hotel, Miami, Florida, is now being placed at the disposal of state branches. As the amount of table and wall space is limited, it is necessary that exhibits be compact and occupy as little space as possible. State board members wishing to have a part in the exhibit should consult with their state president or state exhibits chairman.

### New Pamphlets

*A Handbook of Child Guidance*, by Jennie I. Rowntree. Order from the University of Washington Bookstore, Seattle, price 50 cents.

Teachers' problems with Exceptional Children—IV: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children, (Pamphlet No. 56), by Beatrice McLeod. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 5 cents.

Teachers' Problems with Exceptional Children—VI: Children of Lowered Vitality, (Pamphlet No. 54), by Beatrice McLeod. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 5 cents.

As a means of interesting fathers, these two suggestions have been made:

1. That special committees be organized to provide opportunities to enlist the active service of men, both as chairmen and members.

2. That craft and creative parent activities for both fathers and mothers be promoted, with space, equipment, and technical help provided in cooperation with schools or community centers.

### Pan American Day April 14

Free program material for use in the observance of Pan American Day, April 14, is available from the Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

Every P.T.A. member should be a subscriber to the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*.

## News From State Branches

### Convention Invitation

At the Niagara Falls Board meeting, September 1934, an invitation for the 1936 National Convention was presented by Mrs. David Stewart, President of the Michigan Congress. Detroit was named as the Convention City. Through an error of the National President, the invitation was omitted from the minutes of the meeting. Please make this correction in your copy of the minutes.

*Mary L. Langworthy.*

### California

No Congress unit in Sixth District need be without a helpful program since the organization of the "Flying Squadron." Groups of district chairmen and officers are ready on two weeks' notice to present an entire program to any unit in the district. The groups, or squadrons, are arranged according to departments and geographical locations. No person is included in more than one group.—December issue, *California Parent-Teacher*.

### Kansas, Nebraska, and Washington

These are among states which polled legislative candidates recently to ascertain their attitude on educational legislation, in order to make this information available to parent-teacher members. In questioning candidates, it was pointed out that the purpose of the poll was purely informational, it being understood that commitments for political support cannot be made by the P.T.A.

### New York

Metropolitan District is carrying on a comprehensive health program, in cooperation with the Westchester County Medical Society and the Public Health and Tuberculosis Associations. With their aid, tuberculin tests and X-rays of all highschool athletes have been undertaken, nutrition demonstrations of adequate low cost meals have been staged, and the Summer Round-Up has been indorsed officially by physicians.

In New Rochelle, last summer, voluntary firemen cooperated with the P.T.A. in promoting the Summer Round-Up. Private physicians examined the preschool children who could afford to pay a fee of \$2, and the City Health Department cared for the rest of the 972 children examined. Blood test, urinalysis, smallpox vaccination, toxin antitoxin, tuberculin test and X-ray were included. P.T.A. workers assisted in making contacts, performing secretarial duties, and in obtaining funds from the Council, the Medical and the Tuberculosis Societies.

### Illinois

The Adams County Council of Parents and Teachers, the Farm Bureau and the Home Bureau are sponsoring a traveling library for the benefit of rural schools and rural homes.

### Indiana

A life membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was presented to Mrs. William J. Hockett, retiring state president, by members of local parent-teacher associations, officers, and committee chairmen of the Fort Wayne Council.

### Louisiana

The Shreveport Council's nutrition project provides for a daily glass of milk to the undernourished and under-privileged children in 21 schools. A tag day netted \$1,041 for the fund.

### Nevada

We are happy to report one active Congress unit in Nevada at the present time. The Boulder City Parent-Teacher Association has become a Congress unit paying its dues for a membership of 320 direct to the National Congress. Nevada is the only state in the union which does not have a state Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Among activities reported by the secretary, a motion picture machine was presented to the school for a Christmas present, and the association is assisting in renting instructional films.

### Ohio

Study of city and state traffic laws was included in a course in safe automobile driving, consisting of nine illustrated lectures, recently conducted by the Cleveland Council, in cooperation with the police traffic department.

### Oregon

A membership gain of 44 percent was reported by the Oregon Congress early in December. The membership, which is some five thousand greater than it was at this time last year, includes 23 new units.

### Thank You!

We are gratified with the response to our request for local programs, news letters, and scripts of radio broadcasts. Material has been received from Texas, New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, Arizona, and almost every day our mail contains something new along this line.

### South Dakota

Forty new parent-teacher organizations have been formed in South Dakota since last November. Membership of the state Congress has mounted to 7,519, an increase of 2,000 since November 1.

### Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Congress is cooperating with the state education association in supporting a 13-point education program which covers the following points:

1. State Support of Public Schools
2. State Support of Higher Education
3. Federal Aid for Education
4. Priority of School Taxes
5. Fiscal Independence of School Boards
6. Change in Tax Base
7. Better Schools for Rural Children
8. Part-Time and Evening Schools
9. Teacher Preparation
10. Teachers' Minimum Salary
11. The Necessary Modern Curriculum
12. Health Education
13. Administrative Reorganization

### Washington

The Parent Education Committee of the Washington Congress is emphasizing three major divisions of work this year through cooperative planning with county and local associations. The three-point program is as follows:

I. Gain definite cooperation of state and local educational professional organizations in planning child study programs for

1. Study groups that may be organized within the association.
2. Part of the program of the regular meetings of parent-teacher associations.
3. For special "Parent Days" that may be arranged to develop interest and more extensive participation in parent education.

### II. Establish study groups

1. With professional leaders where they are available.
2. With selected lay leaders.
3. With organized plan for listening in on radio child study programs.

### III. Provide training for leaders of study groups

1. Through classes or training institutes conducted by available specialists.
2. Through correspondence and conferences to put them in touch with available literature, study outlines, and other facilities for parent education.